

Interview with Nicholas Paul

Transcript

For the *Diversifying the Bar: Lawyers Make History Project*

Law Society of Upper Canada

Interviewee: Nicholas P. Paul (NP)

Interviewer: Allison Kirk-Montgomery (AKM), for The Law Society of Upper Canada.

Interview Date: December 15, 2010, at 36 Alvin Avenue, Toronto, Ontario

Transcribed by Planet Shift Inc., 2011

[Note on transcription: This edited transcript is the product of an in-person interview, the review of the original transcript by Mr. Paul, and corrections made in collaboration with me for clarity and accuracy. It also includes comments and additions offered by Mr. Paul in a telephone conversation held 21 March 2011. These additions are in italics. A. Kirk-Montgomery, August 2011]

Introduction

Entry for N. Paul, from Diversifying the Bar: Lawyers Make History webpages
www.lsuc.on.ca/diversifying-the-bar
accessed 25 June 2011

Heritage or Community:

Greek

Name: PAUL, Nicholas P.

Male

Born 1935 in Toronto, Ontario

Called to the Bar:

1960

Q.C.

Biographical Information:

Nick Paul attended University College and Osgoode Hall before being called to the bar. He began in litigation with a client base of Greek immigrants but gradually shifted to a wider commercial practice. In his later career, he acted as counsel in numerous mediations and arbitrations under the alternative dispute resolution programme, with experience in ecclesiastical cases. For many years until 2004, he served on the Osgoode Hall Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is proud of his sponsorship of the 1991 retroactive awarding of the LLB (law degree) to all lawyers who graduated from Osgoode Hall before it became a university.

Nominated by the Hellenic Canadian Lawyers Association. Forthcoming, transcript of interview with Nicholas Paul, by A. Kirk-Montgomery, 2010.

Transcript of Interview

AKM: Well, good morning. My name is Allison Kirk-Montgomery and I'm here from the Law Society, at the offices of Nicholas P. Paul, 36 Alvin Avenue in Toronto and today is December the 15th. Mr. Paul has kindly agreed to participate in the *Diversifying the Bar: Lawyers Make History* program. I'm here because Nick is one of the first lawyers of Greek ancestry to become a lawyer in Ontario. So Nick, can you tell me a little bit about your Greek ancestry; for instance, I think you were born here, but your parents weren't.

NP: I was born here in Toronto at St. Michael's Hospital in February 26th, 1935. My mother, who was well educated, considering the standards of that period, was one of the original Greek school teachers that organized and established the Greek school on behalf of the Greek community and Greek Orthodox Church. The main centre of the school was situated at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, 115 Bond Street, Toronto, *the first formal church that the Greek community owned*. My mother was an accredited teacher in Greece, and when she came here, she became fully devoted to establishing the Greek school in Toronto.

AKM: When did she come here?

NP: She came here, I believe, about 1928.

AKM: 1928. And what is the Greek school?

NP: The Greek school was originally designed to try to give the children of Greek parents a foundation in the Greek language and the Greek culture. In order to

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accomplish this, they set up schools wherever they could. My mother engaged other friends of hers who were qualified teachers, and the children would come twice a week for two hours a day. In other words, children finished their regular school at 3:30 p.m. and tried to get down to the Greek school by 4:30 and then they'd be there for two hours. People like my mother would try to teach them the Greek language and also teach them about Greek culture. She was so devoted to this endeavour that if they couldn't come to the school, she would go to their homes [laughter], you know, to make sure that they were totally involved. Naturally, I had to be sort of an example... She would hammer away at me to make sure I learned the Greek language at a higher level, which fortunately I did.

AKM: That's interesting... and the written language as well?

NP: Oh yes! We did the whole nine yards, so to speak.

AKM: And what was your mother's name?

NP: Smaro – S M A R O. She actually was born in Asia Minor which is now part of Turkey but then was inhabited primarily by Greeks. She went to the patriarchal school in Constantinople for a considerable part of her education. That's why she was so well educated. *Many of the people in the Greek community in Toronto were very devout, but they weren't very well educated, and my mother would help some of them write their speeches. My mother knew everybody, and she dragged me along everywhere.*

AKM: And so she was unusually well-educated for her time.

NP: Yes, for that time.

AKM: What was her family background?

NP: Oh, her family was quite well off financially, because my grandfather was a merchant and they had a good business. Not only she but my aunts as well were very well educated. One aunt was actually a principal of a school. But then they were forced to leave, when Turkey drove out all the Christians.

AKM: After the Greek-Turkish War.

NP: After 1921, the Greek-Turkish War, so then they went to Greece.

AKM: The whole family?

NP: Well, as many as could. They went to Greece and were given by the Greek government a property, in a place called Nea Kios, which is not too far from Athens. That was when they started to re-establish themselves and that's where my mother started to teach. At that time, my father had already emigrated to Canada. Actually, they didn't get married until she came over to Canada. They got married in Prince Rupert, B.C. Then she made sure they came to Toronto, since she didn't wish to stay in Prince Rupert [laughter]. Then, of course, she wanted her sisters to join them in Canada, so, first came her older sister, Irene, and then after the Second World War in the '40s they brought over my other aunt, Despina, and my grandmother, Katina. And you never saw three sisters that were closer.

AKM: Really, and you knew them all then luckily because they...

NP: Oh yes, it was like I had three mothers [laughter] and that was great.

AKM: And what was your father's name?

NP: Peter. And in Greek, Panayotis.

AKM: Did they know each other in Asia Minor?

NP: No, it was an arranged marriage. My mother's parents and my father's parents, who were close friends, got together, just on pictures, and arranged it. But my poor mother, imagine, she came as a young girl all the way, by herself. And not only to come to Canada, but to travel all the way to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, to meet my father.

AKM: That's far even for today. What family background did your father have?

NP: Well, his parents were, from what I understand, exceptionally wealthy, but they lost everything when they were forced to flee. My father began working on the ships and became a chef and that's basically why he was in the restaurant business for a good part of his life. But that's how he ended up in Prince Rupert, he worked on the ships and Prince Rupert became his home base.

Then he brought over his brothers. He had two brothers and he brought them to Prince Rupert. When my mother convinced my dad to move to Toronto in the late '20s or early '30s, my dad's brothers stayed on in Prince Rupert and continued to reside there until they passed away.

AKM: I see. So when your family came to Ontario, your father opened a restaurant business.

NP: Yes. *It was on Church Street, between Queen and Richmond. I don't remember its name.*

AKM: Where are you in the birth order of your family?

NP: Well, I had a sister who was born five years ahead of me. So my mother maybe was here earlier than '28. And my sister died, apparently, shortly after birth. I was born in '35, in Toronto. and then they never had any other children.

AKM: I see.

NP: And neither did my aunts have any children.

AKM: You were the focus!

NP: Just me... [laughter]

AKM: So what kind of reception did your parents meet? Did they talk much about that? Was it a tough time?

NP: I'll tell you what's interesting about them. There were never people that complained. Even though they went through wars and all kinds of problems, they weren't there to complain. They just tried to make the best of the situation. That's how they lived their whole life, to do the best they could in whatever situation they found themselves. For instance, my uncle, my mother's brother, who stayed in Greece in this Nea Kios I was telling you about. When his sisters came over here he looked after everything and he was the mayor of Nea Kios for about fifty years. Now this place is a very desired summer resort area [laughter] because it's right on the water.

AKM: And I guess you've been there?

NP: Oh yes, I've been there a number of times. Not so much lately as they've all died. But my aunt had this huge property and she gave it to the church and they built a cathedral and named it after her, Saint Irene.

AKM: Really.

NP: Which was nice.

AKM: Yes. So, here we have you in Toronto. And you're learning a lot about Greek culture, history and language, and so forth. Did you work in your father's restaurant when you were growing up?

NP: No. *My father wasn't really social, he just worked all the time and looked after his family. He did everything to keep me out of the restaurant. But I heard there was good money to be made at the Banff Springs Hotel and I did work summers at the hotel in the dining room, then in room service. When I first applied for a job there, I asked my dad's friends in the restaurant business to write reference letters for me. I never even looked at most of them because they sent them direct. I don't even know what these letters said. But when I was interviewed, the maitre d' said, "I really wanted to meet you because I've never seen such wonderful letters written about anybody. And I doubt very much as you're so young, that you really had the time to work in all these places."*
[Laughs] *So that's how I funded a lot of my university and law school education.*

My father passed away in December 1956, the night before my first exam at law school. He died in my arms. It was very traumatic period for me.

AKM: When did you decide, or how did you decide, to become a lawyer?

NP: Well, I had cousins in Greece that I had never met, but I'd always hear how great they were. One became the [Greek] minister of commerce and then he was deputy prime minister for a spell. *The other was a professor at the University of Athens and one of a very few international specialists in admiralty law.* They were very successful lawyers. They both encouraged me to become a lawyer too. And I just felt that law is something... I would want to be a lawyer. And I never regretted it. When I went to university, I went to U of T [University of Toronto] and got my BA *in English and Philosophy, (in those days you had to have a university degree to become a lawyer),* and then went to Osgoode Hall. I finally went over and met my cousins in 1960 in Greece. They really took good care of me all summer before I returned to Canada to commence my employment.

AKM: Because that was the year you were called, right?

NP: Yes, the year I was called. I started with Smith, Rae & Greer, which was John Cartwright's previous firm before he became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. I worked a lot with Joseph Sedgwick when I was articled there. I also met my wife in Greece. She was visiting from New York.

AKM: What's her name?

NP: Clara.

AKM: That was quite a year!

NP: Yeah! It was [laughter]

AKM: So... did you get married shortly after that or...?

NP: We got married in '61.

AKM: And she moved to Toronto.

NP: Yes, she moved to Toronto.

AKM: You never considered New York?

NP: No... I never did. I suppose I maybe should have had a better look at it, but not really...

AKM: So you had lawyers in the family... did you know anyone personally that was a lawyer?

NP: No, not until I went to Greece.

AKM: Who did your parents use for legal services?

NP: When they bought their house, they used Borden and Elliott. They didn't know anybody there, they just were told that that's a good firm. [laughter] In those days, Borden and Elliott, they'd be only about four lawyers. [laughter]

AKM: I guess almost every firm was small was in those days.

NP: Yes, oh yes. We were considered a big firm, Smith Rae Greer and Cartwright, and there were maybe fifteen lawyers.

AKM: So your parents then didn't know any Greek lawyers.

NP: Not really.

AKM: So how did you get that articling position?

NP: Well, it was interesting. I didn't know any of the firms myself but I was very active, you know, I was President of the Legal and Literary Society.

AKM: Yes, let's go back to that and tell me more about law school. Why did you choose the Legal and Literary Society?

NP: They nominated me to be class representative and now, they've made me President for Life [laughter]. After I was class representative, then I ran for the president of the Legal Lit and got in.

AKM: What did the Legal and Literary Society do?

NP: Everything. All the student affairs were administered by the Legal and Literary Society, they did everything. Everything that was going on, we dealt with it, all the functions, sports activities, and social functions. We used to go to the other law schools when they were just getting started. Remember, there was only U of T and Osgoode Hall in those days and I had to go to Western and Queen's and help them get organized there. We had debating. We had just about everything under the sun you can think of. Moot courts...

AKM: So it was the main student organization?

NP: Oh yes, I had thirty three committees!

AKM: Really. You were busy.

NP: An interesting story: we used to have luncheons at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto and we used to charge a dollar. Oh, we had Lester Pearson, and Diefenbaker spoke, all these people, and no one charged us. So somebody called me up and said, "You

know, there's this lawyer in town, a famous trial lawyer," (I can't even remember his name), "and why don't you try to get him to speak?"

So I called him up and he'd said he'd be delighted to come. So he comes and gives a nice speech. And then he sends me a bill, I think, for \$3500 dollars. I mean, my whole budget for the whole year was \$3000! So, [laughter] I had John Arnup, the secretary of the Law Society, assist me. I told him, "I don't know what I got myself into here," but they worked it out. I just assumed that anybody who came to speak to us would do it *gratis*.

AKM: For students especially, right?

NP: Sure. We used to get a great crowd.

AKM: How many people would come out?

NP: Oh my God, I would say...because it was a buck, eh? and a nice lunch, and it was always at the Royal York (which again, I don't know how the hell they ever organized that) and you'd get at least a couple hundred people. It was the whole school many times that came – you know, anybody that wanted to come. It was always packed. And depending who the speaker was it was even better.

AKM: That sounds like almost a full-time job doing that while you were at school.

NP: Oh yeah, believe me. They gave me an office when I was president of the Legal Lit and many times I would end up sleeping there, there was so many things going on. And don't forget, I had four active years because our class was the last year of the old

plan. The new class coming in was the first year of the new plan – the LLP program. This was why I was so active later on in trying to get my class, and the preceding classes, the LLB degree.

AKM: And successfully.

NP: But it wasn't easy.

AKM: No, I'm quite sure. So was it difficult to get your actual studies done with that kind of a schedule?

NP: It really hampered your time, you know, but the thing is I enjoyed both so it really wasn't that I was suffering.

AKM: So you really got to know all the students, all your classmates that way.

NP: Oh yes, we were a very close class.

AKM: I looked up, for 1960, some names of people that are on the graduating list to see who came from diverse communities, like Ray Stortini, I think....

NP: Yes, the judge.

AKM: Yes, and John Sopinka.

NP: No, John Sopinka wasn't in our year.

AKM: He wasn't?

NP: No...when I was debating what firm to go to, Walter Williston [a prominent lawyer], who was a really good friend of mine, suggested I go there. I thought his firm was way too big... there was maybe twenty lawyers. [laughter]. But Sopinka was there

as a student. I'm not sure whether Sopinka went to Osgoode or ... he was a good friend of mine, a really wonderful person. I have a feeling he went to U of T law school. And then you know, in the old days they had to come down to Osgoode for their last year.

AKM: Yes.

NP: But I think originally he was from U of T.

AKM: Okay. Alfred Shames.

NP: Yes, I know him very well. He used to be with Chrysler and now he's ended up living in the Detroit area. He wasn't at our reunion, by the way.

AKM: He was not. Yes, that's right, you just had your fiftieth reunion, amazing, Fifty years.

NP: Yes.

AKM: So I'm guessing you did not feel particularly different from the majority of your classmates.

NP: No, not at all. Not at all. I never had any feeling like that whatsoever, nor was I ever in any way treated differently, or like I was from a minority. *I think in my class there was quite a mixed variety of backgrounds, where they were from and so on. You have a certain amount of every class that's Jewish -- I'm talking about in my era. There weren't many people who were Chinese, I don't think we had any, or Japanese. We didn't have very many girls. But there was a mixture of Jewish, Anglo-Saxon and European backgrounds. The class did not break down along Jewish and non-Jewish*

lines. We all liked one another and cared about each other. And it didn't matter what you were. You were all accepted on a most friendly basis.

As a matter of fact, I was very proud to be Greek. I think one of the reasons I was always successful in elections is because the Anglo-Saxons liked me and the Jews liked me and the other nationalities...[laughter]. I was somebody that they wouldn't have a problem justifying... [laughter]

AKM: I guess, too, it was a better time to be of Greek heritage after the Second World War as opposed to after the First World War. [In the Second World War], the Greeks were on the same side and fought, resisted, and so forth, right?

NP: Well, I've read a lot about that time. Even then, even in the First World War I think Greece was stupid to invade Turkey. They were sort of duped by the big powers that said, "You go in and we'll back you up," and then they didn't back them up, they pulled out, and the whole Greek army was trapped in there. Then when Kemal Ataturk started taking a strong stance and going after everybody, what happened is they couldn't win any battles. They got annihilated.

AKM: And immigrants suffered because of the attitude Canadians had at that time...

NP: Oh yes, they suffered greatly. But you know, it's all the type of person you are. For instance, my grandmother: she went through that war, the First World War; she went through the Second World War. And she never had any bitterness. She used to feel sorry for the German soldiers, that they weren't looked after properly and she would offer

them food. That's the way her mind was. It's amazing that if you have this type of mind where you don't look at anything badly, you end up surviving much better.

AKM: And you have that kind of attitude...

NP: If you don't have all that hatred... Now, let's face it, fortunately, none of my family were wiped out, killed or massacred, that I'm aware of. If that happened, of course, you have a different attitude about all these things. But for my family, from what I saw, they always had a good approach to everything. You know, you do the best you can with what you have. We were so close. They were always there helping each other.

AKM: Sounds like a lovely family to grow up in...

NP: My mother would be teaching school and she was so dedicated. My aunts would come to look after me. [laughter] Like I said, I had three mothers. And you don't see that today.

AKM: No? Why's that, do you think?

NP: I think because people are now are more wound up in their own affairs and they've become more selfish with their own concerns. Here's an example. Say, my mother had a teaching schedule and I got sick. My aunt lived in Oshawa. The other was in Akron, Ohio. My mother would call my aunt in Oshawa and she would come immediately - there was no discussion. Today, they wouldn't do that in most instances.

"I'm busy, I've got my own thing to do."

I'm not saying that it happens all the time, but it's a different outlook.

AKM: Did it depend partly on women not working outside of the home?

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NP: Oh yes, well...I'll give you another example. My wife was an honour student and she went to NYU [New York University]. *She had worked originally for British Petroleum and she was an assistant to the controller. Then British Petroleum closed down its head office here. She worked for Eaton's for a while.* After we married, she stopped work when she became pregnant. Then she put more or less all her energies towards raising our family. I didn't want her working. We had three boys. She only returned to work in my law firm to help me after they had grown up. And only then was she was able to do that. *She worked at least three days a week, handling all the banking and accounting and other office work.*

You know, eventually, my entire family has reached university status. Today, my son Niko's wife is a lawyer, she's a children's lawyer; my son Peter's wife is a doctor. So it's a whole different approach. In those days, the women stayed home in many instances to look after their families and their children, and you know something, I still believe that's the best way...

AKM: When you were a young father and a lawyer at the same time, do you think you had more time to spend with your family than young father-lawyers now?

NP: Um.. I didn't. I had fairly limited time, but my wife was totally devoted.

AKM: Okay. Let's go back to law school and then I do want to hear mostly about your practice. So it came time to find a firm for articling...

NP: Oh, yes - what happened with the articling wasn't very difficult. I worked at Banff in the summers in room service, [laughter], and the Canadian Bar Association, I

think, came out there. Walter Williston wanted to give a big party to compete with

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Diefenbaker's so I organized this big party, and his was bigger hit. And he never forgot that. *Williston asked me to come and see him about a job.* But I didn't end up there. Dean Smalley-Baker [of Osgoode Law School] recommended I go to Smith Rae & Greer and arranged for me to be interviewed by Joe Sedgwick, who was one of their famous lawyers, and I liked that arrangement better.

And then after articling, eventually, I went with Paul Hess, *whom I met when I was articling because he was with Smith Rae Greer. Hess graduated in '44 so he was older than me. He was John Cartwright Jr.'s right hand man, and a gold medalist [at law school].* There was a brilliant lawyer. *He took a lot of the big litigation over when John Cartwright went to the Supreme Court of Canada.* Hess was the only lawyer, I remember, that when we'd go to court, the judges would ask him on occasion to explain the law. He was that brilliant.

He and I started our own firm in '66, Hess and Paul. *What happened was that Smith Rae Greer was a firm of excellent lawyers but they were all (this is my impression)... they were all individuals rather than the way firms are now --- "You do corporate, I do estates, I do this, you do that." These were all top counsel. Most of them were litigators. Austin Cooper articulated there. He later opened his own office. Arthur Maloney was there and then he opened his own office. And even Paul Hess went with him for a while. They really all had their own practices and they just happened to be a part of a firm. What happens with these type of arrangements is that they don't last forever. In those days, in the Tory firm, which was in the same building we were in, there were only about seven lawyers. It was J.S.D. Tory and Associates. And McMillan Binch was only*

six or seven lawyers. I remember, when my mother bought her house, she went to Borden Elliott, and they were only about four or five lawyers then. These other places have become huge. But what happened to firms like Smith Rae & Greer, is that everybody sort of drifted off on their own and that's what happened with us. Hess and I got together. And Sedgwick and his son Hugh, came in, and then he became a master. Everyone did their sort of thing.

AKM: Hess and Paul. So what was your practice like at the beginning?

NP: In the beginning, the first case I had when I graduated, and I don't know why they ever gave me this, was a case where this girl had strangled her baby. The baby died. And my firm said, "Defend her." And somehow I won the case, mainly because I went up to the [Toronto General] hospital and pleaded with a professor of gynecology to help me. I'll never forget it.

He said, "I'm going to ask you a couple of questions." He said, "Are you getting paid for this?"

I said, "No, this is all a legal aid case that the firm's taken on."

He said, "Are you telling me that this is your first case since you graduated, one this serious?" Because she was charged with infanticide.

I said, "Yes."

He said, "Then I'll help you." And he did. *He gave me the confidence to win that case.* We were able to establish doubt, in other words that the baby could have died of natural asphyxiation, as opposed to ligature asphyxiation. (She had her baby alone in the

room by herself *so there were no witnesses.*) But you see, if I had gone in there and said to this professor, “I’m acting for some wealthy client,” he would have kicked me out. [laughter] He did this because he felt I needed help and the girl needed help. I never forgot him – Dr. [Douglas E.] Cannell.

AKM: Did you do a lot of legal aid at the beginning?

NP: No. Just whenever the firm had a certain type of case. You see, in those days you got paid nothing. Later on, under the Legal Aid plan, at least you got paid something...

AKM: But this was pro bono.

NP: This was totally for nothing. So you really couldn’t afford to do a lot of it unless you were with a big firm. They sort of felt it was their obligation to help out, which was nice. And we had a lot of good criminal lawyers there, Austin Cooper articulated there, and Paul Hess was there, Arthur Maloney, these were all great lawyers especially in the criminal law.

AKM: But you didn’t stay in criminal law though.

NP: No, really, what happened was that I started to get busy with my own clients. *My mother’s father’s connections in the community brought me a lot of clients, and to some extent, being able to speak and write Greek helped. But it didn’t happen overnight and it takes time for people to deal with you and trust you and all these things.*

They started to come to me and most of them were involved with corporate, commercial and real estate matters, so eventually I was doing more of that type of work. *I*

used to do a lot of Liquor Board work. Being Greek, there were a lot of people in the restaurant and tavern business and in those days it was very hard to get a licence. So I did a lot of that. Now anybody can get a licence but then, it was very difficult. You had to first apply for the leave for the right to apply. The big problem was that, apart from the English, the Board would say to you, "Well, why should we give you the leave to apply when you don't have a place?"

The argument is, "Well, how am I going to have a place when I don't know if I'm going to have a licence?"

And the Board would say, "That's your problem. We're only going to approve you if you have a proper location and this, that and the other thing."

So it was very hard to put all this together so that the client would feel secure and the Board would feel secure. That's all by the boards now. Any chimpanzee can get a licence probably. [Laughter] You know, I don't do any of that work now and I used to do all kinds of it.

Litigation would come up and I and I would do it, but then I took a good look at a cross-section of my clients and they were mostly in non-litigious work. And then if it was litigation, Paul Hess was a genius, so who could I get better than him? The problem with him was --- it wasn't a problem for him --- he inherited several million dollars when we were together about five or six years, and he decided to cut back. But he handled the [Sam] Ciglen case, remember that guy that was harming people on the stock market with

all these bad transactions?¹ Nobody could get him convicted. The case went on three times. And then [Walter] Williston was given the case and he said he wouldn't do it unless Hess prepared it. And they nailed Ciglen [laughter].

AKM: I do remember that.

NP: Sam Ciglen.

AKM: Yes. But where did your corporate clients come from? How did that start?

NP: Well, you know, let me tell you something about corporate. Corporate is a nice word. I mean, the big firms have real corporate clients because they are big public companies and so on. When I talk about corporate, it was a guy starting a business and he would eventually incorporate. Now some of them have become very successful but all that corporate aspect only took place because it was more advantageous to incorporate to obtain limited liability and more tax advantages.

AKM: So I see, so it's business people.

NP: Yes, exactly.

AKM: Were there many Greek clients among your clients?

NP: Well, while I was at Smith, Rae & Greer, there was a real mixture. They didn't restrict me in any way. *Any clients that I brought it, they gave me a free hand.* They were quite happy with whoever it was *and they let me try whatever I wanted to try.*

¹ On Samuel Ciglen, a lawyer who was disbarred, see Christopher Armstrong, *Moose Pastures and Mergers: The Ontario Securities Commission and the Regulation of Share Markets in Canada, 1940-1980* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001), 113-25. N. Paul Interview by A. Kirk-Montgomery, *The Law Society of Upper Canada Diversifying the Bar: Lawyers Make History Project*

Some firms in those days would say, "You just do real estate, you just do estates, you just do this..."

And then when Hess and I went together, I got a great office over at 7 Queen Street East on the second floor, above a bank. It was perfect.

AKM: Great location.

NP: *We had a good part of the second floor. We had our own elevator. It was a really great place to be. Easy for people to get to. The subway stop was right there. And I was there seventeen years.*

AKM: So, was it Hess and Paul for all that time?

NP: Well, no, he left after several years. And I had different associates but never any partners. I saw very quickly that partnerships are too difficult to manage. So I'd bring in people as associates but not as partners. *What you do is you bring them in, you hire them and you pay them a salary. And then if they're worthwhile keeping (and some are and some aren't) you give them a more lucrative arrangement where they get a salary and a percentage of their billings. Then if they pay for themselves and it's worth having them you keep them on. If it doesn't work out, then either they leave or you let me them go. Some of them I had for many years. What it always boils down to is that either they are with you so that the firm makes money or if you're losing money then really there's no reason to have them.*

It's the old story, everyone likes to work for themselves, and you can't blame them. They basically want to build up their own practice. What I never wanted to do is to

be tied in. With these partnerships you get tied into all kinds of issues and problems. I prefer that I pay the bills and I decide who we're going to hire as secretaries and clerks. I wanted control. And it wasn't actually until after Hess retired, actually until I brought my son in, that I even created partnerships and things of that nature. Because you know what they say about partnerships, "They're developed in heaven and fought out on earth". [Laughter] It's like marriage, you know, it's not that much different.

AKM: So how many associates did you have? Did you keep it small?

NP: Oh no, when I was at my busiest, I had three secretaries that worked just for me, a conveyancer and a junior, so I had five, six people that worked just for me but the firm never grew in size. I only grew to the extent that I felt comfortable.

AKM: ...that you could manage it.

NP: Exactly.

AKM: Interesting. So some of your early clients got bigger, you got bigger. Do you remember any particular client that helped your business along or that was seminal?

NP: Well yes, in those days there was a client of mine, a real estate broker who's passed away now. He was a prominent real estate broker from the Greek Canadian community, and he used to send me a lot of people. *How this happened was quite interesting. One of my clients was a very wealthy gentleman and he knew me since I was a little kid. As soon as I graduated, he sent me all the business he could and he was very helpful. The broker was his nephew and he, I think, told him to try to send any business to me, and we developed a friendship. I wasn't the type to go around hustling people. But he*

had a big real estate firm, big in those days, over twenty agents. And then I developed a clientele from him. Another old client I am seeing today is in the coffee business. He started off with his own company and now it's big time. [Laughter]

AKM: So while you were doing this, there were other Canadian Greek lawyers.

NP: Oh, yes.

AKM: You knew them, did you?

NP: Oh yes. In those days I knew everyone.

AKM: How did you know them though? When did you first meet say, John Bassel?

NP: It wasn't difficult. John Bassel [1921-2000] was taught Greek by my mother. He always wanted me to join the firm, Bassel Sullivan. And he was a very kind, lovely man to me. But I always wanted to have my own show. *He'd invite me down every so often, and said, "You should come down." Who knows, maybe if I went and... but I always wanted to be my own boss and I don't regret it.*

He had a fairly big firm called Sullivan, Holland, and Watson, and they were primarily litigators in negligence work. I'd never really done that type of work and I wasn't really that excited about it, too many deals going on all the time and still today I'm not excited about it. It's a funny game, you know, they're all trying to get as much money as they can for their clients and then the insurances [the companies] are fighting about the legitimacy of the whole thing. It's just not my cup of tea.

They had a very good practice and then it fell apart, the whole firm. John Bassel had some financial issues. He bought into these trust companies or something that didn't do well and apparently lost a lot of money and things started to go down for him, in his latter years. When he did so well in his early years, it's sad really. But he and I remained very good friends.

Bill Bassel, [Honourable Justice William P. Bassel of the Ontario Court of Justice], was John's cousin. Peter Bassel owned Bassel's Restaurant – do you remember it, on Gerrard Street?

AKM: Yes, I do.

NP: That was John's father. And then George Bassel, who was Bill Bassel's father, worked with his brother in the restaurant.

When I bought a building on Hayden Street, *which runs east from Yonge one block south of Bloor and Yonge*, I bought it together with Bill Bassel, *who had his own practice there*. Then he became a judge and I bought out his share of the building, *and took over much of his practice*, and he's now a provincial court judge. His mother, who's also a teacher, was a friend of my mother. [Laughter]

AKM: I see a theme here, of education and mothers and...

NP: Yes. So it all flowed together.

AKM: Did you know Stella Panarites?

NP: I don't think so.

AKM: She was the first female lawyer of Greek heritage. I think she was called to the bar about 1955. Or Eustachia Triantafilopoulos?

NP: Triantafilopoulos – yes. She was the one that was in politics. I think she ran out in Mississauga [South], if I have the right person.

They pulled some fast things on her because [ex-Premier David] Peterson's brother [Tim Peterson] switched from the Liberal party to the Conservatives [and needed a safe riding to run in], so they bounced her out of there and put him in -- and then he didn't get in anyway.² She was very capable, if that's the same one.

AKM: So what about the Hellenic Canadian Lawyers Association? I understand you...

NP: I started it *and was the first president. We felt it'd be nice if we had our own organization to share ideas and see if we could help one another and build an organization where we weren't looked upon as competing with one another but helping one another. We knew each other well enough that it worked out fine and it has continued from that.*

AKM: Yes. When was that, first of all?

NP: You know, it was all so long ago. I think in the early '70s. We weren't a very big group so it was very easy. There were no bylaws like they have now. We just were a bunch that got together, so I would call them up and, I was used to doing this from law school days. But then after that, they became more fancy. I'm sure now it's quite big.

² See Ian Urquhart, "Warring Tories Dig In Over Riding," *Toronto Star* 21 May 2007, A13; "Tory Refuses to Quit Non-Existent Race," *National Post* 5 May 2007.
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Now there are so many Greek lawyers that it isn't really beneficial. There are all kinds of Greeks and Italians in the law, but back in those days it helped you more because there were so few professionals. I don't care how big it is now, it was nicer [laughter] the way it was then. We were all close friends. We had a party at my house one time, and Les Vasilaros' house the other time.

AKM: And so would you refer clients among each other to...

NP: *Oh yes, not extensively but we did. I was fortunate that I was always busy enough that I could refer all kinds of work to other lawyers and not feel that I was missing anything, but that it would be helping the client more. It was just a matter of trying to find the appropriate lawyer for your case. If somebody called me up and they had a an accident case I'd try to get them a lawyer that I thought would be good for them. Whenever I could I would refer. For instance, Jim Kokonis was a patent lawyer and then he went to Ottawa with Smart & Biggar.*

I would have all Greek lawyers out of town. In North Bay, Ernie Loukidelis was just a year ahead of me, and Spiros Loukidelis articulated in the same firm that I did, with Smith, Rae & Greer, and then he became a judge. In Guelph, there was [William] Vorvis, and we had the same godmother. The lawyers I referred clients to didn't necessarily have to be Greek, but whoever I thought would be the best person for the client, the best person he could afford. I would send a lot of cases to Bill McMurtry, Chief Justice Roy McMurtry's brother, who was with Dan O'Sullivan originally then eventually went to his own firm, Blaney McMurtry. I would also refer to Earl Cherniak, another classmate of

mine. It didn't really matter whether they were Greek or not. I had all these people in different places that I could call on, in London and so on.

AKM: Lots of connections.

NP: So it worked out well. George Coros was in Peterborough and he just retired recently.

AKM: Yes. And George Speal.

NP: George Speal was a very good friend of mine. He was in Kingston. He was the mayor of Kingston.

AKM: Right.

NP: The group was very close, then. Now I hardly know any of them but I'm not active there anymore. You know, it got to the point where I'm too old to get back into this again. And they all have different attitudes on how to do things. My day came and my day went and that's enough. It's another thing to be involved with my class and reunions like that but I wouldn't want to be involved with the Hellenic Canadian Lawyers Association today because, number one, I don't have the time to devote that I should and second, I'm not really that interested. This is more for young people.

AKM: Do you think the organization has different objectives now?

NP: To tell you the truth, I haven't been there for so long I don't know. I don't what their objectives are. But it's good that they kept it together. You see, I've been through a lot of this. I was called up when I was more involved with politics, without being in politics. When [Roy] McMurtry ran *as the Progressive Conservative candidate*

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in a provincial by-election in 1973, I helped him with his campaign because I had the connections in the Greek community. (He lost but was elected in 1975 and Premier Bill Davis appointed him attorney general).

In my capacity as legal counsel for the Greek Orthodox Church I was invited to Ottawa to discuss with government the possibility of organizing an umbrella corporation, so that rather than dealing with numerous people from all over Canada, they would have one hierarchical organization only that the government could deal with. (That's what the Jewish people did.) Anyway, I tried to put it all together. Oh my God, you should have seen it, they all wanted to be a part of this group but they all got their way of doing so. So I brought this guy in from Ottawa, an assistant cabinet minister to explain to the diocesan Council of the Church what the government wished to establish. I could tell very quickly that this wasn't going to work, because they were going attempt to run the show! I mean, here's the government trying to help you but that doesn't mean you're going to tell them what to do. They're just going to try to work together with you to enhance your different programs. Not that you're going to come there and say, "Now, I decide this, this is what you're going to do," and so on. So it never really developed as it could have. The end result was that no Greek Congress evolved similar to the Jewish Congress.

But they've got all kinds of associations now. They've got the Hellenic Heritage Fund, and a friend of mine, John Sotos, was the president. They've got God knows how many organizations. It's all different because now *that there are many Greek organizations but no umbrella organization.*

AKM: That's interesting, but you started it.

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NP: Yeah...*I was the organizer of the Hellenic Canadian Lawyers Association and its first president. During my tenure I thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in watching the HCLA prosper and grow into its present strong status.*

AKM: ...and this is the man who ran thirty three committees. [laughter] So how else has your practice changed over fifty years?

NP: The best part of my practice, I think, is [having] my one son [as partner], better the one than all three because I couldn't handle them all! Nico went to Osgoode Hall and he became a lawyer and he married his classmate and she's a children's lawyer.

AKM: What's her name?

NP: Cathy, Caterina Tempesta. She's Italian. She's an excellent, from what they tell me, children's lawyer. Very devoted. I used to say to her, "Why don't you go to the Tory firm and do securities work, you were a top student," but that's [not] what she likes. And that's tough, tough work you know, children's issues are very, very serious. I think she's really devoted to this and she's even written manuals on it and lectures judges -- this is her whole life.

AKM: When did your son join you?

NP: Right from the time he [was called in 1995]. I sent him to article somewhere else. And I said, "You know, you've got to make a decision." And he decided that when he graduated he wanted join me and it was perfect timing.

AKM: Why?

NP: In 1995, when my son got his call to the bar, Bill Bassel was appointed as judge. As I told you, I bought his practice and his interest in the building, so right off the bat he had a built-in practice, and he did very well. (That was the smartest thing I ever did was buy that building, 39 Hayden Street.)

AKM: It's done well.

NP: Oh, yes. People tell me, "Oh, you really cleaned up." But you know, I owned it, for 28 years.

AKM: That's a long time.

NP: It didn't happen overnight [laughter].

AKM: That's right. So do you still get new clients of Greek ancestry?

NP: Well, not a great deal but yet I do. I'll tell you how it mostly is now. I turned over the bulk of the firm to my son when we came here to Alvin [Avenue] in 2009 when I sold the building on Hayden Street. I also sat in small claims court. From there I'm now retired, because when you're seventy-five, you're bye-bye. [laughter] I enjoyed it because it was only once a week, and it was a nice diversion. But I turned the firm over to my son and I'm the employee now and he's the boss. It works out well because this way I don't come in all the time and I'm doing other things. We're going to Dubai this Friday, we're going to Florida, we're going to South America and I couldn't do all these things and have a full practice.

AKM: You said you were very busy in your early career and put a lot of hours in...

NP: Yes. You know something, my wife really is the one who should get the awards for this as she never ever complained. She looked after those kids...she was just fully devoted to them.

AKM: I guess if I've got my math right it's your fiftieth anniversary this year coming, is it?

NP: Yes. I had peace of mind.

AKM: You were able to concentrate on your practice.

NP: She wasn't calling me and whining, "You know, your son this or that." She handled it.

AKM: A partnership.

NP: You know. It was really because of her that I was able to... I mean, I used to get home at eleven o'clock at night. I didn't really have anyone else to look after the practice so I had to do it myself. Except, I had exceptional secretaries....

AKM: Did you?

NP: One I have to tell you about. When I was with Smith Rae & Greer, I was a law student. I couldn't get all the work done. Secretaries wouldn't do student's work. I was the bottom of the pile. So [laughter] I went to my boss and I said, "How am I going to get the work done here? Nobody will do it."

So he said, "Call up one of the high schools and tell them you're from the Chief Justice's office, and maybe they'll send you a good girl."

So I called up East York Collegiate as they had a business department. They said, “We’ve got a girl here. She’s the best student we’ve ever had. She’s won all the prizes... nobody is even close to her and we would be happy to send her down. This would be perfect for her.”

So this girl comes in, and ... thick glasses and all. I didn’t know whether this was good or bad. Anyway, I needed a secretary. She was unbelievable. She had a 200 IQ.

AKM: What’s her name?

NP: Deanna Wolf. And I kept her. She was with me for thirty-five years till she retired. This girl today would never be a secretary. She’d be a lawyer. And that’s the difference.

And then I had another one, Peggy Taylor. She just passed away recently. She married one of my wealthy clients and gave me four years’ notice. And she was terrific. So I had [Deanna Wolf] for thirty five years, Peggy Taylor for twenty-eight years and another girl for twenty years. They really were an important part of the whole operation of the office.

AKM: That’s interesting, your point that they would be lawyers today.

NP: Oh, yes. No question. All of them. They were exceptionally smart. And Deanna Wolf was incredible. Clients would call and say, “I’m the president of this company and I have so many shares, and I’m this and that..”

She would say, “No, you’re not, you’re not the president, you’re the secretary.”

[Laughter]

Her mind was just incredible. Do you know what it is for clients to call up and to have somebody like that, looking after everything because she knows everything? Where are you going to get this type of service? Today they don't even call you back.

You just don't have people like that today. When she retired, it was sad. I tried everything to keep her --- offered her anything she wanted. But it wasn't that. You see, her husband retired, and her daughter kept having kids every year. So she was dumping them on her father and he said, "To hell with this, I need my wife home." But we're still close, you know. We still stay in touch. It was such a wonderful thing to have somebody like that work for me.

AKM: Yes, your true partner really at work.

NP: Oh yes, I always felt comfortable, because she was so good I never had to worry that things wouldn't be done right...But you don't get those type of people today.

AKM: They've gone to be lawyers. That's one way that the work has changed. What about other ways that you think your practice has changed? Just reflections.

NP: Well, I think what happens with a practice is you have to decide which way do you want to go with it. And mine kept growing and growing. I didn't want to keep it growing and growing; I found it very difficult to manage a lot of people. I didn't have the time and I really didn't have the inclination. So I never got to the point where I could ever think of becoming a big firm, because I didn't think that way. I inherited other practices; when Hess left I got his practice. Mind you, his was all heavy-duty litigation and that's not something that went on forever. But there were a lot of people from the

old firm, lawyers would send people to me. They came from all over the place. And of

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course, when you get older, your clients stop being active and then, my son acts for their sons and so on, you see?

AKM: So it has a natural life cycle that mirrors yours as well.

NP: But they have to like you.

AKM: Yes.

NP: Fortunately my son is very personable.

AKM: I wonder why that would be...

NP: [laughter]

AKM: Do you have any other thoughts about this: you were the centre of the main student organization at law school, you worked with wonderful law firms, but you came from a community that was different.

NP: You see, I was always involved with the church.

AKM: Yes, talk about that because we missed that.

NP: And still am. And that was good because it kept me involved with the Greek community. Through the church, I then became vice president of the Archdiocesan Council. I used to go to New York all the time. My wife loved this because it gave her a chance to see her family. Then I got to work with the patriarch, that's the head of the world church. Whenever I visited Turkey, I would go to see him. And when the Patriarch came over to Canada for the first time in history, I accompanied him through his whole trip in Canada.

AKM: When was that?

NP: I can't remember the year exactly. It was maybe 1991. A wonderful experience. In New York, I would be dealing with the Americans and all the issues. It used to be that there were two archdioceses, one each for North and South America. Then the patriarch decided that that was too much power for one group. So he separated them. He made Canada separate, and it became the metropolis of Canada. Then Central America, South America, he gave them all their individual independence, not all under the control of the US. I think another reason is that the archbishop of the US was a pretty strong, powerful man, and they were fearful [laughter] he would be running the whole thing himself.

AKM: So is that where they needed a lot of legal help - the structuring, restructuring?

NP: Oh yes, there was a lot of that.

AKM: And that's what you did?

NP: I did a lot of that, but together with other lawyers in the States and so on. I incorporated the First Church, I incorporated the diocese of the metropolis. So I've been there forever. When the Metropolitan archbishop came, I helped him because I had set it up for him and he always tells everyone that I was there before him. [laughter] I don't know whether he says it as a compliment or "I was stuck with the guy."

AKM: [laughter] It was a big part of your practice then?

NP: Yes, it was a big part of my practice in that sense, but it's not a big part financially because you don't bill the church. I finally got to the point where we recovered some of our costs. But generally, they want everything done free. You can't do everything free today, everything is too expensive but at least, it's great work. It's very interesting.

AKM: It would be, meeting people from all over.

NP: All over. But ...I'm an archon, which is a member of the governing body of the world-wide church, but the patriarch now has separated us. We used to be together with the Americans, which I liked. But now he's got us tied in with some Greek organization. Well, that just doesn't work as we never get together. [laughter]

AKM: I see. And was your knowledge of Greek language, written and spoken very important in this work?

NP: Yes.

AKM: So it was mostly done [in Greek].

NP: It helped a great deal. That's always been a big deal. Unfortunately, I didn't do as good as a job with my children as they sort of speak it, but not fluently.

AKM: Your mother lived to be a hundred...

NP: A hundred and six.

AKM: A hundred and six. I thought she'd really be after your children...

NP: She was, but she was too old to be able to do anything about it. I got them tutors but you know what the problem is, I should have spoken to them much more extensively. My wife speaks Greek but is not fully fluent. So she always preferred to speak in English.

AKM: Do you have grandchildren?

NP: Six.

AKM: Six. What about them and the Greek culture and language?

NP: Well, you see the problem, is they are not married to Greeks. My older son was married to a Greek girl. They had a horrible divorce. Now he's married to an Italian doctor in New York and he's happy. His son, his first son, was brought up primarily by the mother and she didn't concentrate on them learning Greek. The others are married to an Italian girl and to an English girl.

AKM: I guess this is the way of the world, isn't it, after a few generations.

NP: It is, and you know, it goes beyond that too. The problem is that it also weakens the family unit.

AKM: To marry into different groups?

NP: See, we never did anything when I was a kid unless the sisters got together, and everybody got together. Their whole life was each other. Now, my son in New York, his wife is like that. She's very close with her family. Her brother-in-law was a classmate of her sisters -- they both went to medical school -- so they have a New Year's Eve party and they invite all their relatives. The relatives include anybody from the time you're

born to the time you die, and they come! I've been there a few times, and it's unbelievable and they just love each other. So these are all nice things.

AKM: Yes.

NP: So you see, my son is more enveloped with that family. But it's not the same family unit. It's different. My wife's brother was at the Metropolitan Opera, he's retired now, it's not the same. It's not that anybody is apart from one another purposely or don't like each other...

AKM: But compared to your childhood, which was exceptional...

NP: They don't have that same link, of everything being tied into the family. And I spent a good part of my life looking after my aunts. They looked after me and I had to look after them, because they didn't have any children. It was a pleasure to look after them when they got older.

AKM: When you had your firm, and your associates, was it like a family at all, or was it business?

NP: No. I only worked with a few guys, and except for Hess, I didn't feel close to them. There was one of my classmates, Jay Doane, but apart from that it was mostly business. It wasn't like when I had a real closeness with Hess. When he retired, he'd still come and see me all the time, and have me do his legal work, even though he was a far better lawyer than I was. He was doing it just because he wanted to come and see me. He would come down and say, "By the way, can you make this amendment to my will?"

He'd have it written all out anyway, or he'd want to transfer this property. Oh, they were wonderful people.

AKM: Joe Sedgwick, do we have a minute to talk about Joe Sedgwick?

NP: Well, remember, I mostly dealt with him in my articling period. We were on that first Iconic stock market fraud case together, and I was up with him, and Joe Pomerantz was up with Arthur Martin. It was a great case, you know, the buying and selling to move the stock up. He was a wonderful counsel. I remember in this case, we were defending these two guys and there about 150 witnesses for the prosecution and, basically, four for the defence, including the two defendants. We were acting for this fellow, Beaudry, it was Beaudry and Butler.³ Before the trial started, Joe Sedgwick brought Beaudry up and said, "You know, I want you and I to take a little walk."

I can hear all this as I'm sitting up front with them.

He says, "In half an hour, there's going to be twelve people sitting in those chairs, that are going to decide where you're going to live for the next number of years. You better get rid of that goon at the back of the courtroom, the one you hired as your body guard. Get him out of here, I don't want to see him again. Get your Rolex watch off, and your diamond rings and your Armani suit, and come back looking like you're really concerned about what's going to happen to you, and not that you're going to show off your wealth."

I never saw a guy change so fast in my life. [laughter] But he had that art to be able to deal with people. Do you know what happened in that case? It was the first case

³ Supreme Court of Canada, *Beaudry v. Randall*, [1963] S.C.R. 418.
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that George Walsh Sr. had as a judge. And I think [James] McRuer who was the Chief Justice then was unhappy with the appointment. George used to do family law primarily, so he is given this stock market case. It ended up being a hung jury. Do you know, they went back again and they put in a judge that was fully familiar with that type of law. Hung jury again. So the two accused got off. [laughter]

AKM: And he put his watch back on.

NP: Yes, oh yeah, I'm sure all that went back on. It was beautiful the way he handled it... "They're going to decide where you're gonna live"... [laughter]

AKM: So the art of understanding people is very important.

NP: He had that great ability.

AKM: And you had it.

NP: I was lucky throughout all of my legal career to be associated with good people.

AKM: Thank you very much for participating.

NP: Oh it's a pleasure. I don't know how much I really helped you, but I can tell you this, that I have no regrets. You know, even after all these years, I can say I truly had a very enjoyable career. And I really enjoyed being on the Alumni Association, staying tied in with the school. Everything – just tied in nicely.

AKM: You must have felt good, in 1991, in getting degrees retroactively granted to Osgoode Hall graduates.

NP: That was a great feeling. How it came about, was that Jim McPherson had just become the dean and they were talking about raising money. He said, "How do you think, Nick, we can raise money?"

I said, "Give them all their LLBs."

And he hung his hat on that and so did Professor John McCamus. [laughter] Because the truth of it is, it was silly for us not to have degrees. As I said earlier, Osgoode couldn't grant degrees because it wasn't a university. I finished in '60, and ended up getting the LLB in '91.

So it took a while. [Laughter] But it was the biggest graduation. It was such an emotional day. Do you know we had, in some instances, three generations getting their call to the bar? Beautiful. The grandfather, the father, the son. It was so beautiful. Over two thousand people.

AKM: Amazing.

NP: They all never talked about it but they all wanted it.

AKM: Yes. A really good thing for everybody then.

NP: Oh, I think so. You see, why did most of us end up at Osgoode Hall? For instance, Dean Wright wanted me to go to the U of T law school and gave me a very convincing spiel, to encourage me to go there. Bora Laskin was teaching there and there were many good reasons to count -- except for one thing, it was a year longer before you could be called to the bar. And after you've been through university [as I had], you know, to me the degree wasn't as important then.

Today, you hear the big complaints that they're too old by the time they graduate. Well, I'm going to tell you something and I want to emphasize this. I had a lot to do with putting in the bar admission course. I thought it was a wonderful thing to have, because when students articulated, they didn't get enough experience in many areas. The bar admission course was there as a catch-all so they'd get an idea [of the life].

I know when I first started to practise, I felt, "What do I know about corporate law, what do I know about this or that?" You only knew the area you worked in. That's where the bar admission course came in and helped you.

AKM: I didn't know you had a role in getting that in.

NP: Well, I didn't have a role in the sense that I held a position. But it came in just shortly after I was president of the Legal and Literary Society, and naturally they would be coming to me asking about this and that, and I said, "I think that's a wonderful thing to do." They finally convinced themselves it was. But I hear it's only a minor thing now, the whole bar admission course is maybe a couple of months. They tell me that the thing is practically dismantled because of whining and complaining: you know, "We're too old when we finish." But where are you going to get this opportunity?

AKM: I'm not sure, but I know from our history, that articling, as you say, can be basically useless or very good in terms of preparing you for your future career. All right, well, I will let you go because of the time, but thanks again, Nick, it's been wonderful.

NP: Oh, it's been a pleasure.